DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 378 591 CS 214 714

AUTHOR Renaud, Linda; Silk, Lynn
TITLE Tall Tales on Tour.
INSTITUTION Maine Center for Educational Services.
PUB DATE [94]
NOTE 5p.; A product of Project SEED.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Elementary Education; *Integrated Activities; Interdisciplinary Approach; Program Descriptions; Resource Units; Rural Education; School Community Relationship; Teacher Developed Materials; Units of Study
IDENTIFIERS Maine (Washington County); *Oral Literature; *Tall Tales

ABSTRACT

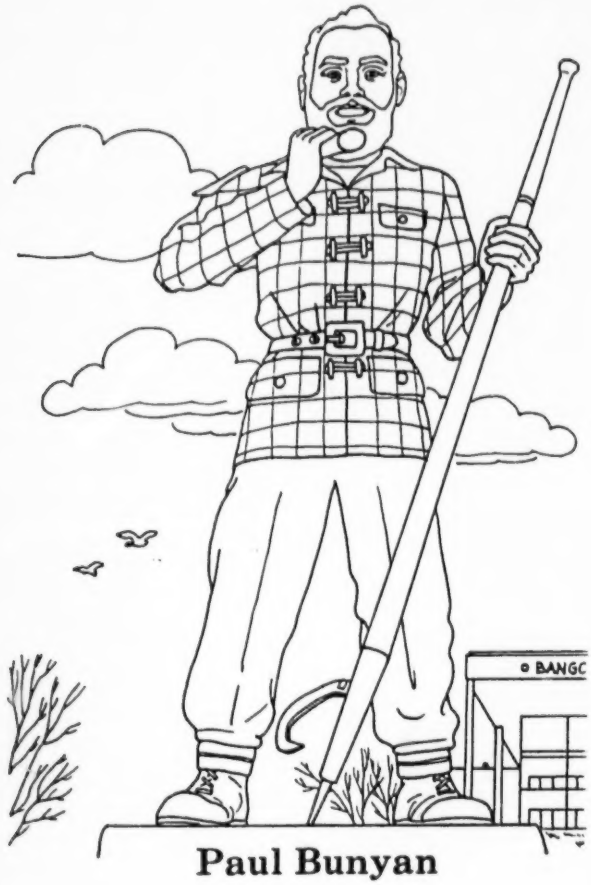
"Tall Tales on Tour" consists of a mobile unit of books, posters, puppets, plays, videos, teachers' guides and other resources designed to kindle enthusiasm and love for tall tales in students in grades 3-8 and to establish links with rural Washington County, Maine, schools. The program consists of three main components: (1) immersing students in tall tales activities across the curriculum; (2) developing a curriculum guide outlining specific activities; and (3) lending the unit to other rural schools in the area. Approximately 100 students in three schools in rural Maine participated in a variety of activities. Resources needed include overhead projectors, video cameras, tape recorders, and an all-purpose room or gymnasium for large group activities. Community volunteers participated in various activities. A suggested timeline is to spend the first half of the school year in developing activities and gathering materials, and implement the Tall Tales on Tour program during the second half of the school year. (RS)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

CS

ED 378 591

Tall Tales on Tour



Paul Bunyan

Linda Renaud
Lynn Silk

Alexander Elementary School
Box 1430
Alexander, ME 04694

Project SEED

CS214714

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

the Center
Maine Center for Educational Services

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

L. Renaud

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

Tall Tales on Tour : A multi-faceted curriculum for grades 3-8.

THE PROJECT: *Tall Tales on Tour* consists of a mobile unit of books, posters, puppets, plays, videos, teachers' guides and other resources designed to kindle enthusiasm and love for tall tales and to establish links with rural Washington County schools.

The program in action consists of three main components. The first component is immersing the students in tall tale activities across the curriculum. Included in this component are a number of resources that foster reading and writing. Also, by incorporating folk songs into the lessons we created a unique format for teaching United States history as it relates to the many colorful figures in our tall tales history.

The second component was the development of a curriculum guide outlining specific activities. This guide is available upon request.

The third component is what makes this project truly unique. After we completed the unit it was loaned to two other rural schools in our area.

One specific activity centered on Paul Bunyan. Students compared and contrasted different versions of the Paul Bunyan tale. Through letter writing and research students discovered how the tale varied in different states. Students studied the geographical features of the United States whose formations are credited to Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe, i.e. the Great Lakes, Rocky Mountains, Mississippi River, etc.

Due to our close proximity to the coast, students were especially fascinated by the tall tale character Storm-a-long, a character that is based on the ocean. We studied ocean currents, weather, and animals of the ocean. Students also

learned sea shanties which were taped for inclusion in our lending library.

Perhaps the favorite activity for students and teachers alike was the singing of the prairie ballad *"Circle Around the Old Brass Wagon."* Students sang the song while performing a square dance. The dancing was videotaped and shown at a local PTA meeting.

Materials used in the project included a number of volumes of tall tale literature appropriate for grades 3-8. In addition to these materials we purchased posters, wall maps, records, tapes and teacher resource materials.

GOALS:

*To link the experiences of rural Maine children to the Language Arts Curriculum through the use of teacher generated activities concentrating on tall tales.

*To create an interactive network between schools by means of a lending library.

THE STUDENTS: All students in grades 3-8, a total of 55 children, participated in this program at the Alexander School. Additionally, students at two other schools in our area participated in the program for a grand total of approximately 100 students. The curriculum guide made adaptations for students of all ability levels to meet success. The duration of this unit was one month for each school.

TARGET AUDIENCE: With modifications this program could easily be adapted to both younger or older students.

THE STAFF: The staff needed to implement this project included two curriculum coordinators, a lending coordinator and classroom teachers.

MATERIALS AND FACILITIES: Special materials included overhead projectors, video cameras, filmstrip

projectors and tape recorders. An all purpose room or gymnasium is recommended for large group activities.

OUTSIDE RESOURCES: Community volunteers participated in various activities including making cider with a cider press, story telling, and dressing up as various tall tale characters.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE:

Sept.--Meet with staff to explain the project *Tall Tales on Tour.* Identify interested personnel, including volunteers. If this is to be a shared unit, this orientation should include representatives from the other schools.

--Begin obtaining materials listed on project inventory as recommended by the Alexander School through ME-link.

Oct.---Catalogue new materials for distribution.

Jan.---Develop schedule for distribution and collection of traveling libraries.

Feb.-June--Implement *Tall Tales on Tour* program.

OVERALL VALUE: Since our project was created for grades 3-8 it includes a large variety of ideas to draw from It is easily adapted to any school as was demonstrated through the success of our lending program.

Tall tales are a unique part of our American heritage. They lend themselves well to all areas of the curriculum. By studying men and women who were "larger than life" students' aspirations are naturally raised. The best reason for studying tall tales is that students and teachers alike love them.